

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 2, 2003 has been received and carefully considered. Applicants appreciate the Examiner taking the time for the interview on January 8, 2004 during which the applicability of the Viner reference was discussed, as well as, the withdrawal of claims which pertain only to methoxsalen. Applicants believe the amended claims address the Examiner's concerns and obviate any remain rejections. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned with any remaining concerns. All of the now pending claims require the administration of methoxsalen, the originally elected species which was examined and for which no relevant art was found by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the withdrawn status be removed as the claims are directed solely to the originally elected species.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

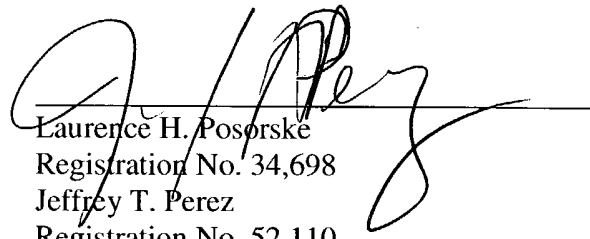
Claims 22, 23 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Viner (U.S. 5,760,049) for the reasons of record. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the fact that now all pending claims require the administration of methoxsalen. Viner is provides no teaching for the administration of methoxsalen. Therefore it is believed the Examiner's rejection is obviated.

CONCLUSION

Applicants assert that the above-referenced application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. Should any outstanding issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 202-955-1500.

Respectfully submitted,

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